

Claims

5 1. A method for retrieving and displaying
programming information, comprising the steps of:
— selecting one of a plurality of categories of
said programming information by scrolling a category display
displaying an array of category tiles representing said categories
10 until one of said category tiles representing said selected category
appears within a viewing panel;
— selecting one of a plurality of subcategories of
said programming information by scrolling a subcategory display
displaying an array of subcategory tiles representing said
15 subcategories until one of said subcategory tiles representing said
selected subcategory appears within said viewing panel, each of
said subcategories being associated with at least one of said
categories; and
— selecting one of a plurality of programs of said
20 programming information by scrolling a program display
displaying an array of program tiles representing said programs
until one of said program tiles representing said selected program
appears within said viewing panel, each of said programs being
associated with at least one of said subcategories,
25 wherein said viewing panel extends along at
least a portion of said category display, said subcategory display,
and said program display to display one each of said category
tiles, subcategory tiles, and program tiles.

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3. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein selecting one of said categories causes said subcategory display to show at least one of said subcategory tiles representing one of said subcategories associated with said selected category, and selecting
5 one of said subcategories display causes said program display to show to at least one of said program tiles representing one of said programs associated with said selected subcategory.

4. The method recited in Claim 3, wherein scrolling
10 said program display moves chronologically through said program tiles representing programs that are associated with said selected subcategory.

5. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said step
15 of selecting one of said categories comprises:

moving a focus frame along said viewing panel to said category display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said category tiles when said focus frame is positioned along said category display;

20 scrolling in a selected vertical direction said category tiles until said category tile representing said selected category appears within said viewing panel.

6. The method recited in Claim 5, wherein said step
25 of selecting one of said subcategories comprises:

moving said focus frame along said viewing panel to said subcategory display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said subcategory tiles when said focus frame is positioned along said
30 subcategory display;

scrolling in a selected vertical direction said subcategory tiles until said subcategory tile representing said selected subcategory appears within said viewing panel.

7. The method recited in Claim 6, wherein said step of selecting one of said programs comprises:

moving said focus frame along said viewing panel to said program display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said program tiles when said focus frame is positioned along said program display;

scrolling in a selected vertical direction said program tiles until said program tile representing said selected program appears within said viewing panel.

8. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said array of category tiles and said array of subcategory tiles are maintained in alphabetical order for represented categories and subcategories.

9. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said array of program tiles is maintained in time-sorted order for represented programs.

10. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said program tiles comprises at least program name, program date and start time, and program channel.

11. The method recited in Claim 1, wherein said program tiles are ordered in time-sorted order for represented programs, and said program display includes a plurality of date tiles representing dates, each of said date tiles separating said program tiles associated with one of said dates from said program tiles associated with another one of said dates.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said program display further comprises a date status indicator operative to display one of said dates associated with one of said program tiles appearing within said viewing panel.

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14. A system for displaying programming information, comprising:

5 a category display for displaying an array of category tiles representing categories of said programming information;

10 a subcategory display for displaying an array of subcategory tiles representing subcategories, each of said subcategories associated with at least one of said categories, said subcategory display located adjacent to said category display;

a program display for displaying an array of program tiles, each of said programs associated with at least one of said subcategories, said program display located adjacent to said subcategory display; and

15 a viewing panel extending along a portion of each of said category display, said subcategory display, and said program display for displaying one each of said category tiles, subcategory tiles, and program tiles,

20 wherein said subcategory display, responsive to one of said category tiles representing a selected category appearing within said viewing panel, displays at least one of said subcategory tiles representing one of said subcategories associated with said selected category, and

25 said program display, responsive to one of said subcategory tiles representing a selected subcategory appearing within said viewing panel, displays at least one of said program tiles representing an available one of said programs associated with said selected subcategory.

30 15. The system recited in Claim 14 further comprising a focus frame movable along said viewing panel, said focus frame responsive to placement proximate to one of said category display, said subcategory display, and said program display, to enable control of the display one of said category tiles, subcategory tiles, and program tiles.

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16. The system recited in Claim 15, wherein said category tiles of said category display are scrollable in response to moving said focus frame proximate to said category display.

17. The system recited in Claim 16, wherein said subcategory tiles of said subcategory display are scrollable in response to moving said focus frame proximate to said subcategory display.

18. The system recited in Claim 17, wherein said program tiles of said program display are scrollable in response to moving said focus frame proximate to said category display.

19. The system recited in Claim 18, wherein scrolling said program display moves chronologically through said program tiles representing programs that are associated with said selected subcategory.

20. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein said array of category tiles and said array of subcategory tiles are maintained in alphabetical order for represented categories and subcategories.

21. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein said array of program tiles is maintained in time-sorted order for represented programs.

22. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein each of said program tiles comprises at least program name, program date and start time, and program channel.

23. The system recited in Claim 14, wherein said program tiles are ordered in time-sorted order for represented programs, and said program display includes a plurality of date

tiles representing dates, each of said date tiles separating said program tiles associated with one of said dates from said program tiles associated with another one of said dates.

5 24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said program display further comprises a date status indicator operative to display one of said dates associated with said program tile appearing within said viewing panel.

10 25. The system of Claim 14, wherein said category display, said subcategory display, and said program display are operative to respectively display up to a predetermined number of said category tiles, said subcategory tiles, and said program tiles.

15 26. The system of Claim 14, wherein said category tiles are stored within a database and are retrievable to support the display of said category tiles by said category display.

20 27. The system of Claim 26, wherein said subcategory tiles are stored within said database, and at least one of said subcategory tiles representing one of said subcategories associated with said selected category is retrieved from said database in response to one of said category tiles representing said selected category appearing within said viewing panel.

25 28. The system of Claim 27, wherein said program tiles are stored within said database, and at least one of said program tiles representing one of said programs associated with said selected subcategory is retrieved from said database in response to one of said subcategory tiles representing said selected subcategory appearing within said viewing panel.

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29. A method for selecting and displaying programming information, comprising the steps of:

selecting one of a plurality of categories of said programming information by scrolling a category display displaying an array of category tiles representing said categories until one of said category tiles representing said selected category appears within a viewing panel;

selecting one of a plurality of subcategories of said programming information, each of said subcategories being associated with said selected category, by scrolling a subcategory display displaying an array of subcategory tiles representing said subcategories until one of said subcategory tiles representing said selected subcategory appears within said viewing panel; and

selecting one of a plurality of programs of said programming information, each of said programs being associated with said selected subcategory, by scrolling a program display displaying an array of program tiles representing said programs until one of said program tiles representing said selected program appears within said viewing panel,

wherein said viewing panel extends along at least a portion of said category display, subcategory display, and program display and supplies a highlighted display one each of said category tiles, said subcategory tiles, and said program tiles appearing within said viewing panel.

30. The method recited in Claim 29, wherein said step of selecting one of said categories comprises:

moving a focus frame along said viewing panel to said category display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said category tiles when said focus frame is positioned proximate to said category display;

scrolling in a selected vertical direction said category tiles until said category tile representing said selected category appears within said viewing panel.

31. The method recited in Claim 30, wherein said step of selecting one of said subcategories comprises:

5 moving a focus frame along said viewing panel to said subcategory display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said subcategory tiles when said focus frame is positioned proximate to said subcategory display;

10 scrolling in a selected vertical direction said subcategory tiles until said subcategory tile representing said selected subcategory appears within said viewing panel.

32. The method recited in Claim 31, wherein said step of selecting one of said programs comprises:

15 moving a focus frame along said viewing panel to said program display, said focus frame operative to supply an indication of user control of the display of said program tiles when said focus frame is positioned proximate to said program display;

20 scrolling in a selected vertical direction said program tiles until said program tile representing said selected program appears within said viewing panel.

25 33. The method recited in Claim 29, wherein said array of category tiles and said array of subcategory tiles are maintained in alphabetical order for represented categories and subcategories, and said array of program tiles is maintained in time-sorted order for represented programs.

30 34. The method recited in Claim 29, wherein said program tiles are ordered in time-sorted order for represented programs, and said program display includes a plurality of date tiles representing dates, each of said date tiles separating said program tiles associated with one of said dates from said program
35 tiles associated with a another one of said dates.

35. The method of Claim 29, wherein said program display further comprises a date status indicator operative to display one of said dates associated with said program file appearing within said viewing panel.

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